

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 764  
By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to commend James E. Word for his honorable  
and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to  
specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to  
improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, James E. Word is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest  
integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; throughout his life, Mr. Word has distinguished  
himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his  
community; and

WHEREAS, he served as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs at Vanderbilt  
University Medical Center from 1997 to 2003, as Senior Vice President at Baptist Hospital, Inc.  
in Nashville from 1993 to 1997, and as Executive Vice President of the Tennessee Hospital  
Association from 1988 to 1993; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Word was a vital force in the Tennessee Department of Health and  
Environment for many years, serving under five governors as Commissioner or Deputy  
Commissioner between 1969 to 1982; and

WHEREAS, in all of his endeavors, he has provided extensive political, legislative, and  
administrative expertise and has demonstrated strong leadership and dedication to providing  
quality health care for the citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS, at all times, he has interacted with government officials, legislators, and all  
others citizens in an honest and forthright manner, always remaining open to new ideas and  
suggestions; and

WHEREAS, he provided strong leadership during the expansion of the Tennessee  
Department of Health and Environment, as it increased from 900 employees with a \$250 million  
budget in 1969 to 4,400 employees with a \$7 billion budget in 1988; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Word directed important initiatives for the governor, including the National Governors' Association Task Force on Medicaid, National Governors' Association Committee on Environmental Health, and National Governors' Association Committee to exchange Medicaid for Education; and

WHEREAS, Jim Word spearheaded numerous health initiatives as Commissioner of Health and Environment, including designing and implementing Tennessee's Medicaid program, family planning reform, maternal and child health reform, public health funding, healthy children programs, AIDS programs, and major nursing home reform; and

WHEREAS, his commitment and diligence were vital in implementing other programs such as a national data system for public health services, a black health care initiative, a hospital donated payments plan, the outpatients tuberculosis program, and the restructuring of thirty-seven regulatory boards; and

WHEREAS, he also placed great emphasis on environmental reform and implemented the Tennessee surface mining program, the Clean Air Act, the Tennessee Water Quality Act, and the Tennessee Solid Waste Act; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Word has been actively involved in professional organizations such as the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers, American Management Association, American Society for Public Administration, Tennessee Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration, American Public Health Association, Tennessee Public Health Association, and American Society of Association Executives; and

WHEREAS, he also has actively supported various other organizations in leadership positions, including service as a Board Member for the Helen Pate Bain Nursing Home, a Board Member and Executive Committee Member for the Association of State Territorial Health Officials, and Editorial Board Member of the *Healthcare Systems Strategy Report*; and

WHEREAS, Jim Word has received many well-deserved awards and recognition's during his career, including the Tennessee Hospital Association's Meritorious Service Award, Tennessee Medical Association's Community Service Award, Shelby County Mayor's Award, American Nursing Home Association's Presidential Citation, and Tennessee Primary Care Association's Leadership Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Word's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, he is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Word is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State", and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend James E. Word for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as a leader in health care with the Department of Health and Environment and in the private sector, and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.